

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death Reporting System Annual Report 2005

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
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Introduction

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a public health, population-based surveillance system that contains detailed information on deaths resulting from violence. Operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, the NC-VDRS provides injury and violence prevention specialists and policy-makers with timely information on the victims, suspects, relationships, circumstances and weapons associated with every incident of violence resulting in a fatality in North Carolina. It is an incident-based, relational database that combines information from multiple sources such as death certificates, medical examiner reports, and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data as of January 1, 2004.

The NC-VDRS is part of a larger, national system being developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million to create the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) as a means of implementing a nationwide surveillance system on deaths from violence. NVDRS is built on the knowledge gained from a firearm reporting system developed at the University of Wisconsin and the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS, operated by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center). Participation in NVDRS is through competitive cooperative agreements. North Carolina was awarded funding in August 2003. As of 2006, 17 states submit data to the NVDRS. The goal is to have all 50 states and U.S. territories contribute their data.

This annual report for the NC-VDRS presents statistics on deaths from violence to residents of North Carolina that occurred during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2005.

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to "the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community." Deaths meeting this definition include intentional deaths (i.e., suicides, homicides), legal interventions, deaths where the manner/intent was undetermined, and unintentional deaths from firearms. Legal executions are captured in the NC-VDRS as legal intervention deaths. Because most deaths from violence could have been prevented, the NC-VDRS errs on the side of inclusivity, and collects information on all deaths that were the consequence of violence or a potentially lethal weapon/mechanism. Therefore, deaths of undetermined intent are captured in the system because most in this category are the result of violence, even though the evidence is insufficient to definitively classify the intent of the victim or suspect.

Unintentional deaths from firearms also are included in the system. These include deaths resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile, when there is a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentional. This category also includes children under age six who shoot themselves or other people.

The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repositories of deaths from terrorism. A death in North Carolina that results from an act of terrorism would be listed as a homicide or suicide in the NC-VDRS. The International Classification of Disease codes, version 10 (ICD-10) that correspond to the selection criteria for inclusion in the NC-VDRS, are listed on the following page.

Operational Definition: ICD-10 Codes that Define NC-VDRS Cases

Manner of Death	Death < 1 year after Injury	Death \geq 1 year after injury
Intentional self harm	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional firearm	W32-W34	Y86 (guns)
Legal intervention	Y35.0-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

Users of the data in this report should be aware that some of the counts are small and must be interpreted with caution. Small numbers, even if they are not used in the calculation of rates, have substantial random variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). Counts of less than 5 are subject to serious random error and should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. In general, this report does not present mortality rates if the number of deaths is less than 5. An asterisk (*) in the rate cell indicates that the number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate. A double asterisk (**) in a rate cell indicates that population information is not available for the rate calculation. All rates are calculated as the number per 100,000 residents.

Definitions:

Unless otherwise stated, a child is a person of less than 18 years of age.

Furthermore, 95% confidence intervals for rates will be referred to as "CI for rates" in all applicable tables.

Acknowledgements

The NC-VDRS is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and is operated by the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. This annual report was supported by the CDC Cooperative Agreement U17/CCU423098-02. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

We acknowledge the assistance of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout the state that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

We are grateful to Ms. Kay Sanford and Dr. Steve Marshall for their leadership as co-principal investigators during 2005. We are thankful for the assistance of three advisory groups: a Technical Advisory Board, a Data Users' Advisory Board, and a Durham Community Advisory Board. The members of these boards are listed at the end of this report. We wish to acknowledge Dr. Sandra L. Martin and Ms. Zewditu Demissie of UNC-Chapel Hill who served as the NC-VDRS evaluation team in 2005. Thanks to Susan Autry and Pat Jones, the Statistical Research Assistants, for their work in abstracting and entering the NC-VDRS data. We are grateful for the editorial assistance of Carol Schriber and graphic design of Tracey Jarrett for this publication. Thanks, also, to the many people at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health and the N.C. Division of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch who provided input and editing assistance, including Becca Byrd, Jeanne Givens, Sandy Martin, Jane Miller, Valerie Russell, Scott Proescholdbell, Ghazaleh Samandari, and Jennifer Woody.

Sharon Schiro, PhD
Editor
Injury Surveillance Consultant, Injury Epidemiology Unit
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Sharon Rhyne, MHA, MBA
Interim Director, NC-VDRS
Health Promotion Manager
Chronic Disease and Injury Section

Tammy Norwood, BS
Program Manager, NC-VDRS
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Valerie Russell, DHSc
Branch Head
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Scott Proescholdbell, MPH
Manager, Injury Epidemiology Unit
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Section I: Violent Death - Overall

Highlighted Findings

- More than 1,700 North Carolinians died as a result of violence in North Carolina in 2005.
- Violent deaths are three times more likely for men than women.
- Infants have the highest rate of violent death among children.
- Young adults in the 20-24 year age group had the highest rate of violent death.
- Suicide was the primary manner of death; homicide was second.
- Firearms were the primary weapon used in violent deaths.
- Blacks had the highest rate of violent death, followed by whites.

Table 1: Gender, Race, Hispanic, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%	Rate	CI for Rate
Gender					
	Male	1,320	76.0	31.1	29.4-32.8
	Female	416	24.0	9.4	8.5-10.3
Race					
	Asian	18	1.0	10.6	5.7-15.5
	Black	438	25.2	22.9	20.8-25.0
	American Indian	32	1.8	28.4	18.6-38.2
	Other	4	0.3	*	*
	White	1,244	71.7	19.2	18.1-20.3
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	86	5.0	15.6	12.3-18.9
	Non-Hispanic	1,649	95.0	20.3	19.3-21.3
	Unknown	1	<0.1	*	*
Age Group					
	<1	22	1.3	18.1	10.5-25.7
	1-4	37	2.2	3.1	2.1-4.1
	5-9	6	0.4	1.1	0.2-2.0
	10-14	17	1.0	2.9	1.5-4.3
	15-19	103	5.9	17.4	14.0-20.8
	20-24	191	11.0	32.5	27.9-37.1
	25-34	315	18.2	25.9	23.0-28.8
	35-44	343	19.8	26.2	23.4-29.0
	45-54	334	19.2	27.2	24.3-30.1
	55-64	171	9.8	18.4	15.6-21.2
	65-74	116	6.7	20.7	16.9-24.5
	75-84	79	4.6	21.7	16.9-26.5
	85+	24	1.4	18.5	11.1-25.9

Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	1,007	58.0
	Homicide	646	37.2
	Unintentional firearm	22	1.3
	Legal intervention	17	1.0
	Undetermined	44	2.5
Method			
	Firearm	1,101	63.5
	Poisoning	227	13.1
	Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	161	9.3
	Sharp instrument	101	5.8
	Blunt instrument	39	2.2
	Unarmed assault	29	1.7
	Fire/burns	17	1.0
	Drowning	13	0.8
	Motor vehicle	10	0.6
	Fall	11	0.6
	Violent shaking	6	0.4
	Other transport vehicle	3	0.2
	Intentional neglect	4	0.2
	Unknown	3	0.2
	More than one method	9	0.5
	Missing	2	< 0.1
Total		1,736	

Table 3 indicates the years of education for all violent death victims. Only 28% of the victims were known not to have completed a high school education. For the 1,626 victims aged 18 or higher, 42.3% of the victims had completed high school, but had not completed any education beyond high school.

Table 3: Years of Education Completed for Adult Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

Years of Education	Number	%
< 9	117	7.2
9-11	338	20.8
12	688	42.3
> 12	458	28.2
Unknown	25	1.5
Total	1,626	100

Table 4: Marital Status of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

Marital Status	Number	%
Married	604	34.8
Never Married	663	38.2
Separated/Divorced	384	22.1
Widowed	78	4.5
Unknown	7	0.4
Total	1,736	100

Highlighted Findings - Counties

- Counties with the highest rate of suicide were predominantly in western North Carolina. Counties with the highest rate of homicide were predominantly in eastern North Carolina.
- The highest number of violent death victims occurred in the most populated counties, with a single exception of Robeson County. However, when adjusting for population, several other counties' rates came to the forefront.

Table 5: N.C. Counties with the Highest Number of Violent Deaths, 2005

County	Number	County Population	County Population Rank
Mecklenburg	139	796,369	1
Wake	86	750,865	2
Guilford	84	443,539	3
Forsyth	62	325,726	4
Durham	61	242,354	6
Cumberland	52	299,027	5
Gaston	50	196,237	8
Robeson	47	127,752	21
Buncombe	43	218,380	7
New Hanover	36	179,043	9

Table 6: N.C. Counties with the Highest Violent Death Rates, 2005

County	Number	County Population	Rate	CI for Rate
Graham	4	8,004	*	*
Swain	6	13,249	45.3	9.0-81.5
Robeson	47	127,752	36.8	26.3-47.3
Columbus	20	54,399	36.8	20.7-52.9
Rutherford	23	63,654	36.1	21.4-50.9
Gates	4	11,180	*	*
Madison	7	20,211	34.6	9.0-60.3
Avery	6	17,700	33.9	6.8-61.0
Montgomery	9	27,356	32.9	11.4-54.4
Stokes	15	45,790	32.8	16.2-49.3

Race and Gender of Violent Death Victims

Highlighted Findings

- The violent death rate is higher in American Indian and black males than white males. In the female population, white females have a higher violent death rate than black females - a reverse of the male trend, though the difference is not significant in females.
- The homicide rates for American Indian, black and white males are significantly higher than for their female counterparts.
- The black female homicide rate is significantly higher than the white or Asian female homicide rates.
- American Indian and black male homicide rates are significantly higher than Asian and white male homicide rates.
- The white male suicide rate is significantly higher than the black male suicide rate.
- The suicide rate for white females is significantly higher than for black females.
- The counts of suicides in Asian males and homicides in Asian and American Indian females were too small to calculate rates.

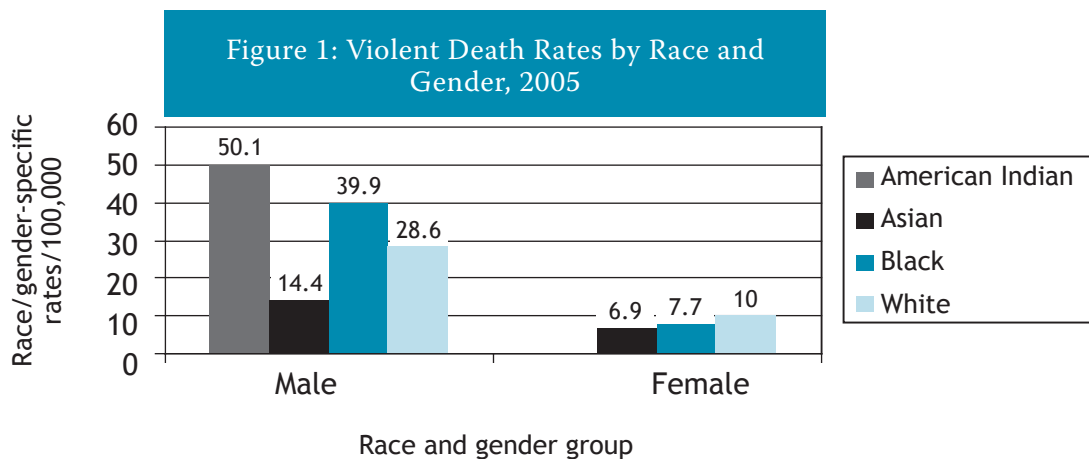
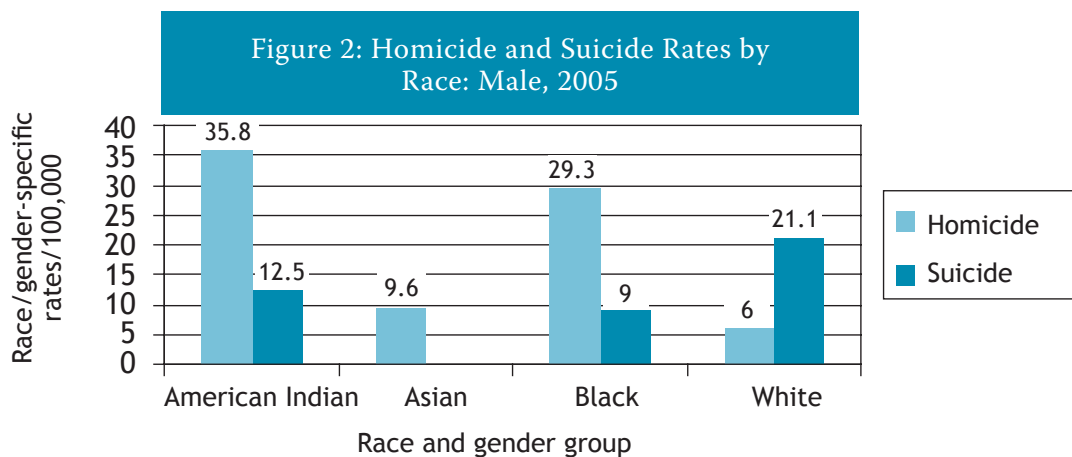


Table 7: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

Race	Male			Female			Total	
	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate	#	%
Asian	12	0.9	14.4	6	1.4	6.9	18	1.0
Black	360	27.3	39.9	78	18.8	7.7	438	25.2
American Indian	28	2.1	50.1	4	1.0	*	32	1.8
Other	4	0.3	*	0	0	*	4	0.3
White	916	69.4	28.6	328	78.8	10.0	1,244	71.7
Total	1,320	100		416	100		1,736	100



Age Groups by Gender, of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

The general pattern of violent death rates is similar for males and females ages 25 through 64. However, the overall violent death rate is higher in males than females. For males, the violent death rate is much greater than the overall violent death rate, especially in the population over age 64. The numbers of violent deaths for women under age 15 and over age 74, as well as for men under age 15, were too small for rate calculations.

Figure 4: Violent Death Rates by Age Group, 2005

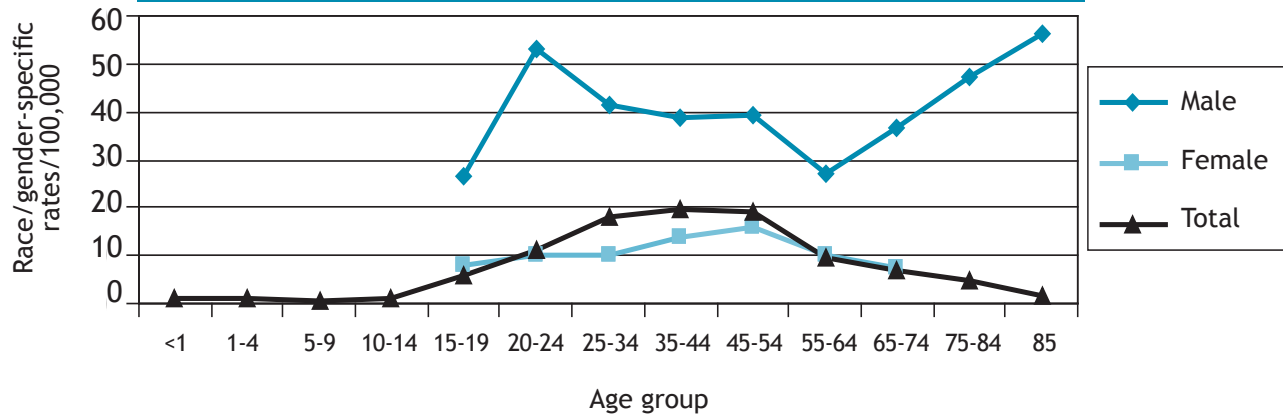


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

Age Group	Male			Female			Total	
	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate	#	%
< 1	11	0.8	17.8	11	2.6	18.5	22	1.3
1-4	9	0.7	3.7	6	1.4	2.6	15	0.9
5-9	6	0.4	2.1	0	0	*	6	0.4
10-14	11	0.8	3.6	6	1.4	2.1	17	1.0
15-19	80	6.1	26.3	23	5.5	8.0	103	5.9
20-24	162	12.3	52.9	29	7.0	10.3	191	11.0
25-34	254	19.2	41.5	61	14.7	10.1	315	18.2
35-44	251	19.0	38.5	92	22.1	14.0	343	19.8
45-54	234	17.7	39.1	100	24.0	15.8	334	19.2
55-64	121	9.2	27.3	50	12.0	10.3	171	9.8
65-74	93	7.0	36.8	23	5.5	7.4	116	6.7
75-84	67	5.1	47.1	12	2.9	5.4	79	4.6
85+	21	1.6	56.1	3	0.7	*	24	1.4
Unknown	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0
Total	1,320	100		416	100		1,736	100

Section II: Suicide

Highlighted Findings

- 1,007 North Carolinians were victims of suicide in North Carolina in 2005.
- Suicides were three times more likely for men than for women.
- The majority of suicides were committed using firearms.
- Most suicide victims were white.
- Suicide victims were dominantly high school graduates.
- Most suicide victims were married.
- Males were more likely to have a current depressed mood and a recent crisis.
- Youth and older adults were more likely to have a current depressed mood while adults were more likely to have a mental health problem or a history of mental health treatment.
- Problems at work or school were rare contributors to the suicide.
- The majority of suicide victims did not disclose their intent or leave a suicide note.

Table 9: Gender, Race, Hispanic, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%	Rate	CI for Rate
Gender					
	Male	769	76.4	18.1	16.8-19.4
	Female	238	23.6	5.4	4.7-6.1
Race					
	Asian	8	0.8	4.7	1.4-8.0
	Black	100	9.9	5.2	4.2-6.2
	American Indian	7	0.7	6.2	1.6-10.8
	Other	0	0		
	White	892	88.6	13.8	12.9-14.7
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	17	1.7	3.1	1.6-4.5
	Non-Hispanic	990	98.3	12.2	11.4-13.0
	Unknown	0	0		
Age Group					
	<1	0	0	*	
	1-4	0	0	*	
	5-9	0	0	*	
	10-14	7	0.7	1.2	0.3-2.1
	15-19	38	3.8	6.4	4.4-8.5
	20-24	76	7.6	12.9	10.0-15.8
	25-34	142	14.1	11.7	9.8-13.6
	35-44	210	20.8	16.0	13.9-18.2
	45-54	228	22.6	18.5	16.1-20.9
	55-64	125	12.4	13.5	11.1-15.8
	65-74	94	9.3	16.8	13.4-20.1
	75-84	65	6.4	17.8	13.5-22.2
	85+	22	2.2	17.0	9.9-24.1

Table 10: Method of Suicide in N.C., 2005

Method	Number	%
Firearm	631	62.7
Sharp instrument	16	1.6
Poisoning	194	19.3
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	138	13.7
Fall	6	0.6
Drowning	10	1.0
Fire/burns	7	0.7
Motor vehicle	1	0.1
Other transport vehicle	3	0.3
Unknown	1	0.1

Of the 979 victims ages 18 or older, the largest group (41.5%) had completed high school, but had no additional education. Less than 24% of the victims were known not to have completed high school. (See Table 11).

Table 11: Years of Education Completed for Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Years of Education	Number	%
< 9	74	7.4
9-11	181	18.0
12	408	40.5
> 12	338	33.6
Unknown	6	0.6
Total	1,007	100

Table 12: Marital Status of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Marital Status	Number	%
Married	417	41.4
Never Married	256	25.4
Separated/Divorced	273	27.1
Widowed	59	5.9
Unknown	2	0.2
Total	1,007	100

Table 13: N.C. Counties with Highest Number of Suicides, 2005

County	Number	County Population	County Population Rank	Rate	CI for Rate
Wake	54	750,865	2	7.2	5.3-9.1
Mecklenburg	53	796,369	1	6.7	4.9-8.4
Guilford	41	443,539	3	9.2	6.4-12.1
Forsyth	35	325,726	4	10.8	7.2-14.3
Gaston	30	196,237	8	15.3	9.8-20.8
Buncombe	26	218,380	7	11.9	7.3-16.5
Cumberland	26	299,027	5	8.7	5.4-12.0
Johnston	22	146,324	15	15.0	8.8-21.3
New Hanover	22	179,043	9	12.3	7.2-17.4
Rowan	22	134,782	20	16.3	9.5-23.1

Race by Gender of Suicide Victims

Highlighted Findings

- The suicide rate in white females and males is higher than in black females and males.
- The suicide rate in males is higher than in females.

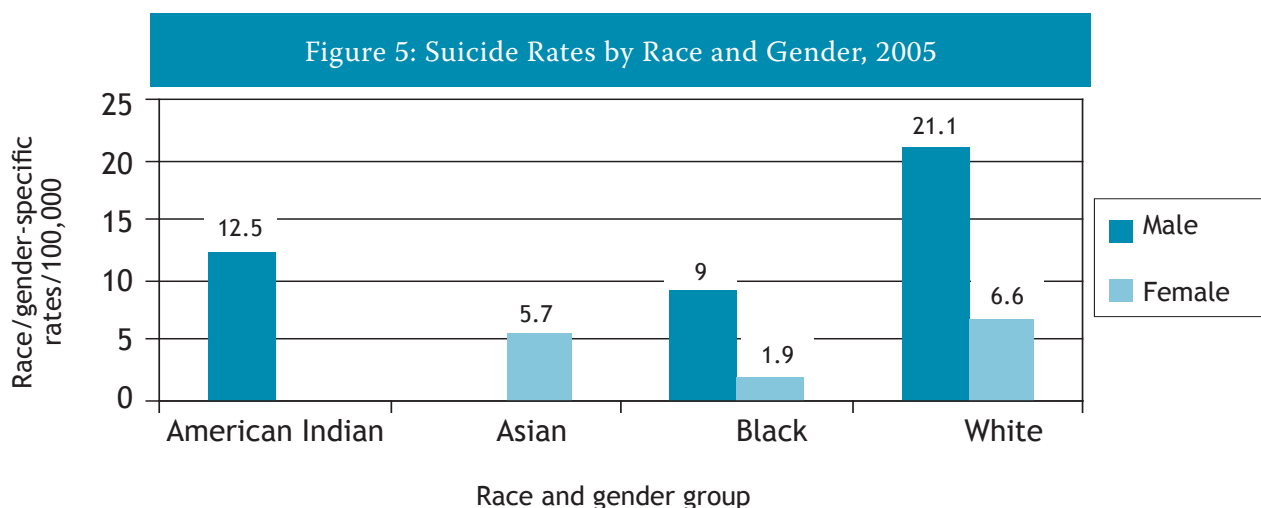


Table 14: Race/Ethnicity by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Race	Male				Female				Total	
	#	%	Rate	CI for Rate	#	%	Rate	CI for Rate	#	%
Asian	3	0.4	*	*	5	2.1	5.7	0.7-10.8	8	0.8
Black	81	10.5	9.0	7.0-10.9	19	8.0	1.9	1.0-2.7	100	9.9
American Indian	7	0.9	12.5	3.2-21.8	0	0	*	*	7	0.7
Other	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	*
White	678	88.2	21.1	19.5-22.7	214	89.9	6.6	5.7-7.4	892	88.6
Total	769	100	18.1		238	100	5.4		1,007	100

Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

The general pattern of suicide death rates is the same for males and females ages 25 through 64, though the overall suicide rate is higher in males than in females. For males, the suicide rate is much greater than the overall rate, especially in the population over age 64. The numbers of suicides for women under age 25 and over age 65 were too small for rate calculations.

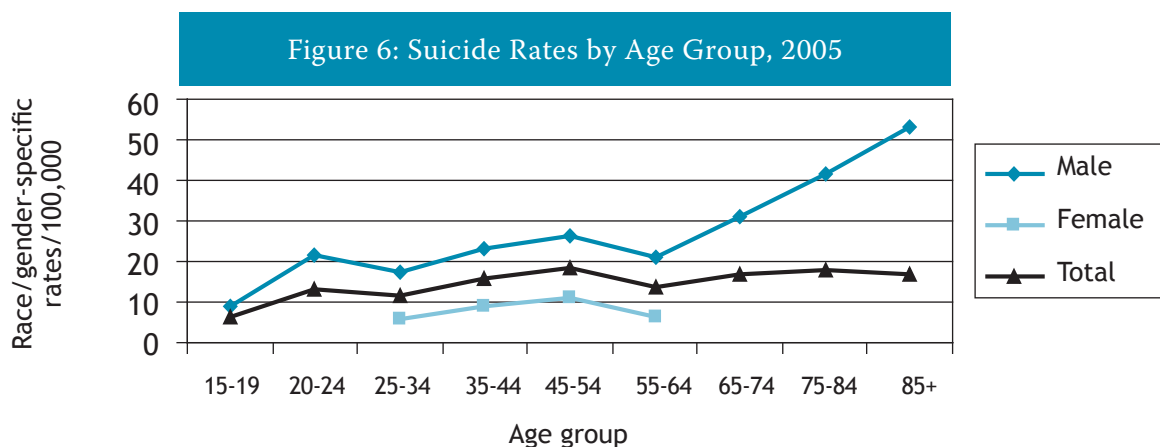


Table 15: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Age Group	Male			Female			Total	
	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate	#	%
10-14	6	0.8	*	1	0.4	*	7	0.7
15-19	28	3.6	9.2	10	4.2	*	38	3.8
20-24	66	8.6	21.5	10	4.2	*	76	7.6
25-34	108	14.0	17.6	34	14.3	5.6	142	14.1
35-44	151	19.6	23.2	59	24.8	9.0	210	20.8
45-54	158	20.6	26.4	70	29.4	11.1	228	22.6
55-64	94	12.2	21.2	31	13.0	6.4	125	12.4
65-74	79	10.3	31.3	15	6.3	*	94	9.3
75-84	59	7.7	41.5	6	2.5	*	65	6.4
85+	20	2.6	53.4	2	0.8	*	22	2.2
Total	769	100		238	100		1,007	100

Characteristics of Suicides

A suicide victim may have one, none, or more than one of the characteristic shown in this table. Thus, the total count of characteristics is greater than the total number of suicide victims. Note that differences might be related to a complex set of psycho-social circumstances. For example, men are more likely to use more lethal methods and thus are far more likely to complete suicide on the first attempt. Thus, they are less likely to have a previous attempt or to have sought medical or mental health treatment. Likewise, caution should be used whenever extrapolating these characteristics to the larger general population.

Table 16: Characteristics of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Victim Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Current Mental Health Problem	233	33.3	146	65.8	379	41.2
Current Depressed Mood	340	48.2	122	54.2	462	49.6
Current Mental Health Treatment	217	30.7	138	61.3	355	38.1
Alcohol problem	103	14.6	23	10.2	126	13.5
Other substance problem	80	11.3	33	14.7	113	12.1
Left a suicide note	184	26.1	69	30.7	253	27.2
Ever treated for mental illness	235	33.3	148	65.8	383	41.1
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	163	23.1	37	16.4	200	21.5
History of suicide attempts	64	9.1	78	34.7	142	15.3
Crisis in past two weeks	273	38.7	46	20.4	319	34.3
Physical health problem contributed to suicide	164	23.2	36	16.0	200	21.5
Intimate partner problem contributed to suicide	198	28.0	49	21.8	247	26.5
Other relationship problem contributed to suicide	43	6.1	9	4.0	52	5.6
Job problem contributed to suicide	51	7.2	8	3.6	59	6.3
School problem contributed to suicide	1	0.1	2	0.9	3	0.3
Financial problem contributed to suicide	51	7.2	15	6.7	66	7.1
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years contributed to suicide	9	1.3	1	0.4	10	1.1
Other death of friend/family contributed to suicide	21	3.0	6	2.7	27	2.9
Recent criminal/legal problem contributed to suicide	72	10.2	3	1.3	75	8.1
Other legal problems contributed to suicide	12	1.7	1	0.4	13	1.4
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month contributed to suicide	62	8.8	1	0.4	63	6.8
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month contributed to suicide	4	0.6	5	2.2	9	1.0

The circumstances listed below in Table 17 are those captured nationally by the VDRS. Of interest is that “depressed mood” is the most prevalent circumstance for all age groups except 10-14 year olds, for whom “crisis in the past two weeks” is most prevalent circumstance.

Table 17: Most Common Suicide Characteristics in N.C. by Age Group, 2005

Circumstance	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Depressed mood	2	40	18	58.1	31	45.6	58	42.3	88	44.7	101	47.2	64	56.6	50	58.1	39	63.9	11	57.9	462	49.6
Current mental health problem	2	40	12	38.7	29	42.6	49	36	78	40.6	94	44.5	65	57.5	31	36.5	17	27.9	2	10.5	379	41.2
Current treatment for mental illness	2	40	10	32.3	23	33.8	48	35	76	38.6	89	41.6	59	52.2	30	34.9	16	26.2	2	10.5	355	38.1
Ever treated for mental illness	2	40	12	38.7	29	42.6	49	35.8	79	40.1	97	45.3	64	56.6	32	37.2	17	27.9	2	10.5	383	41.1
Alcohol problem	0	0	2	6.5	4	5.9	19	13.9	38	19.3	36	16.8	17	15	7	8.1	3	4.9	0	0	126	13.5
Other substance problem	0	0	3	9.7	12	17.6	23	16.8	37	18.8	32	15	5	4.4	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	113	12.1
Person left a suicide note	2	40	8	25.8	16	23.5	30	21.9	54	27.4	64	29.9	38	33.6	24	27.9	15	24.6	2	10.5	253	27.2
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	0	0	4	12.9	13	19.1	28	20.4	42	21.3	48	22.4	22	19.5	19	22.1	19	31.1	5	26.3	200	21.5
History of suicide attempts	1	20	8	25.8	7	10.3	23	16.8	44	22.3	35	16.4	16	14.2	3	3.5	5	8.2	0	0	142	15.3
Crisis in past two weeks	3	60	12	38.7	30	44.1	63	46	68	34.5	66	30.8	30	26.5	22	25.6	21	34.4	4	21.1	319	34.3
Physical health problem contributed	0	0	3	9.7	2	2.9	6	4.4	20	10.2	37	17.3	28	24.8	47	54.7	41	67.2	16	84.2	200	21.5
Intimate partner problem contributed	1	20	8	25.8	20	29.4	64	46.7	62	31.5	55	25.7	23	20.4	9	10.5	4	6.6	1	5.3	247	26.5
Other relationship problem contributed	2	40	6	19.4	8	11.8	4	2.9	11	5.6	9	4.2	8	7.1	3	3.5	1	1.6	0	0	52	5.6
Job problem contributed	0	0	1	3.2	6	8.8	13	9.5	15	7.6	13	6.1	9	8	2	2.3	0	0	0	0	59	6.3

Table 17: Most Common Suicide Characteristics in N.C. by Age Group, 2005

Circumstance	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
School problem contributed	0	0	1	3.2	1	1.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3
Financial problem contributed	0	0	0	0	3	4.4	8	5.8	18	9.1	23	10.7	8	7.1	5	5.8	1	1.6	0	0	66	7.1
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years contributed	0	0	2	6.5	2	2.9	0	0	3	1.5	1	0.5	1	0.9	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	10	1.1
Other death of friend/family contributed	1	20	0	0	1	1.5	3	2.2	6	3	5	2.3	5	4.4	2	2.3	4	6.6	0	0	27	2.9
Recent criminal legal problem contributed	0	0	4	12.9	12	17.6	18	13.1	17	8.6	15	7	6	5.3	3	3.5	0	0	0	0	75	8.1
Other legal problems contributed	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.5	2	1	4	1.9	4	3.5	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	13	1.4
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	1	20	0	0	2	2.9	17	12.4	14	7.1	13	6.1	8	7.1	5	5.8	3	4.9	0	0	63	6.8
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	0	0	1	3.2	0	0	2	1.5	3	1.5	2	0.9	0	0	0	0	1	1.6	0	0	9	1

Veteran Suicides

- In 2005, 238 veterans were suicide victims.
- Most of the veteran suicide victims were between 75 and 84 years of age.
- The most prevalent circumstance for veteran suicide is "depressed mood."
- An overwhelming number of veterans who committed suicide (97.1%) were male.

Table 18: Gender, Race, Hispanic, Age Group and Method of Fatal Injury of Veteran Suicide Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%
Gender			
	Male	231	97.1
	Female	7	2.9
Race			
	White	216	90.8
	Black	21	8.8
	Hispanic	0	0
	American Indian	1	0.4
Age Group			
	18-19	1	0.4
	20-24	8	3.4
	25-34	19	8.0
	35-44	29	12.2
	45-54	36	15.1
	55-64	39	16.4
	65-74	44	18.5
	75-84	50	21.0
	85+	12	5.0
Method of Fatal Injury			
	Firearm	176	74.0
	Hanging, Strangulation, or Asphyxiation	23	9.7
	Poisoning	30	12.6
	Sharp or Blunt Instrument	6	2.5
	Fall	1	0.4
	Drowning	1	0.4
	Other transport vehicle	1	0.4
Total		238	100

Table 19: Characteristics of Veteran Suicides by Age Group, 2005

Circumstance	18-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Depressed mood	1	100	3	42.9	3	16.7	10	37	21	60	25	65.8	23	54.8	32	66.7	5	50	123	54.4
Current mental health problem	0	0	3	42.9	7	41.2	11	40.7	10	28.6	20	52.6	14	34.1	13	27.1	1	10	79	35.3
Current treatment for mental illness	0	0	3	42.9	8	44.4	9	33.3	10	28.6	19	50	13	31	12	25	1	10	75	33.2
Ever treated for mental illness	0	0	3	42.9	8	44.4	11	40.7	10	28.6	19	50	15	35.7	13	27.1	1	10	80	35.4
Alcohol problem	0	0	0	0	2	11.1	5	18.5	8	22.9	8	21.1	2	4.8	3	6.3	0	0	28	12.4
Other substance problem	0	0	0	0	3	16.7	4	14.8	4	11.4	2	5.3	1	2.4	0	0	0	0	14	6.2
Person left a suicide note	0	0	1	14.3	3	16.7	8	29.6	4	11.4	14	36.8	11	26.2	11	22.9	1	10	53	23.5
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	0	0	1	14.3	5	27.8	5	18.5	12	34.3	7	18.4	9	21.4	17	35.4	3	30	59	26.1
History of suicide attempts	0	0	0	0	1	5.6	5	18.5	2	5.7	3	7.9	2	4.8	4	8.3	0	0	17	7.5
Crisis in past two weeks	0	0	5	71.4	5	27.8	9	33.3	15	42.9	10	26.3	10	23.8	17	35.4	2	20	73	32.3
Physical health problem contributed	0	0	0	0	2	11.1	4	14.8	6	17.1	10	26.3	26	61.9	33	68.8	8	80	89	39.4
Intimate partner problem contributed	1	100	4	57.1	5	27.8	7	25.9	11	31.4	10	26.3	1	2.4	3	6.3	1	10	43	19
Other relationship problem contributed	0	0	0	0	2	11.1	2	7.4	2	5.7	2	5.3	2	4.8	1	2.1	0	0	11	4.9
Job problem contributed	1	100	3	42.9	2	11.1	1	3.7	3	8.6	2	5.3	1	2.4	0	0	0	0	13	5.8
School problem contributed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 19: Characteristics of Veteran Suicides by Age Group, 2005, continued

Circumstance	18-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Financial problem contributed	0	0	1	14.3	0	0	3	11.1	3	8.6	2	5.3	1	2.4	0	0	0	0	10	4.4
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years contributed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.7	0	0	1	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.9
Other death of friend/family contributed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.9	2	5.3	1	2.4	4	8.3	0	0	8	3.5
Recent criminal legal problem contributed	0	0	1	14.3	0	0	3	11.1	6	17.1	3	7.9	1	2.4	0	0	0	0	14	6.2
Other legal problems contributed to suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5.7	1	2.6	1	2.4	0	0	0	0	4	1.8
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	0	0	0	0	3	16.7	1	3.7	4	11.4	3	7.9	1	2.4	2	4.2	0	0	14	6.2
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	0	0	0	0	1	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.1	0	0	2	0.9

Section III: Homicide

Highlighted Findings

- Homicide victims were over three times more likely to be male than female.
- American Indians had the highest rate of homicide deaths, followed by blacks.
- Female victims of homicide were more likely to be black.
- Young adults in the 20 to 24-year age group and infants had the highest rates of homicide death.
- Most homicide victims had less than a high school education.
- Most homicide victims were never married.
- Most homicides were committed by firearm.
- Most homicide events involved an argument, abuse, or conflict about circumstances other than property or money.

Table 20: Gender, Race, Hispanic and Age Group of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%	Rate	CI for Rate
Gender					
	Male	489	75.7	11.5	10.5-12.5
	Female	157	24.3	3.6	3.0-4.2
Race					
	Asian	9	1.4	5.3	1.8-8.8
	Black	322	49.8	16.8	15.0-18.6
	American Indian	24	3.7	21.3	12.8-29.8
	Other	3	0.5	*	*
	White	288	44.6	4.4	3.9-4.9
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	68	10.5	12.3	9.4-15.2
	Non-Hispanic	578	89.5	7.1	6.5-7.7
	Unknown	0	0	*	*
Age Group					
	<1	22	3.4	18.1	10.5-25.7
	1-4	13	2.0	2.7	1.2-4.2
	5-9	2	0.3	*	*
	10-14	8	1.2	1.4	0.4-2.4
	15-19	60	9.3	10.1	7.5-12.7
	20-24	111	17.2	18.9	15.4-22.4
	25-34	158	24.5	13.0	11.0-15.0
	35-44	119	18.4	9.1	7.5-10.7
	45-54	86	13.3	7.0	5.5-8.5
	55-64	33	5.1	3.6	2.4-4.8
	65-74	19	2.9	3.4	1.9-4.9
	75-84	13	2.0	3.6	1.6-5.6
	85+	2	0.3	*	*

Table 21: Method of Homicide in N.C., 2005

Method	Count	%
Firearm	432	66.9
Sharp instrument	85	13.2
Blunt instrument	38	5.9
Poisoning	1	0.2
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	21	3.2
Unarmed assault	28	4.3
Fall	3	0.5
Drowning	1	0.2
Fire/burns	8	1.2
Violent shaking	6	0.9
Motor vehicle	7	1.1
Other transport vehicle	0	0
Intentional neglect	4	0.6
More than one method	9	1.4
Unknown	2	0.3
Missing	1	0.2
Total	646	100

Of the 569 homicide victims ages 18 years or older, the largest group (43.2%) had completed high school, but no additional education; 35.5% of the victims were known not to have completed high school. (See Table 22)

Table 22: Years of Education Completed for Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Years of Education	#	%
< 9	92	14.2
9-11	182	28.2
12	249	38.5
> 12	104	16.1
Unknown	19	2.9
Total	646	100

Table 23: Marital Status of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Marital Status	#	%
Married	162	25.1
Never Married	376	58.2
Separated/Divorced	89	13.8
Widowed	14	2.2
Unknown	5	0.8
Total	646	100

Table 24: N.C. Counties with Highest Number of Homicides in 2005

County	Number	County Population	County Population Rank	Rate	CI for Rate
Mecklenburg	84	796,369	1	10.6	8.3-12.8
Guilford	40	443,539	3	9.0	6.2-11.8
Durham	38	242,354	6	15.7	10.7-20.7
Robeson	32	127,752	21	25.0	16.4-33.7
Wake	26	750,865	2	3.5	2.1-4.8
Cumberland	24	299,027	5	8.0	4.8-11.2
Forsyth	19	325,726	4	5.8	3.2-8.5
Wilson	15	76,175	34	19.7	9.7-29.7
Buncombe	14	218,380	7	6.4	3.1-9.8
Gaston	13	196,237	8	6.6	3.0-10.2

Race by Gender of Homicide Victims

Figure 7: Homicide Rates by Race and Gender, 2005

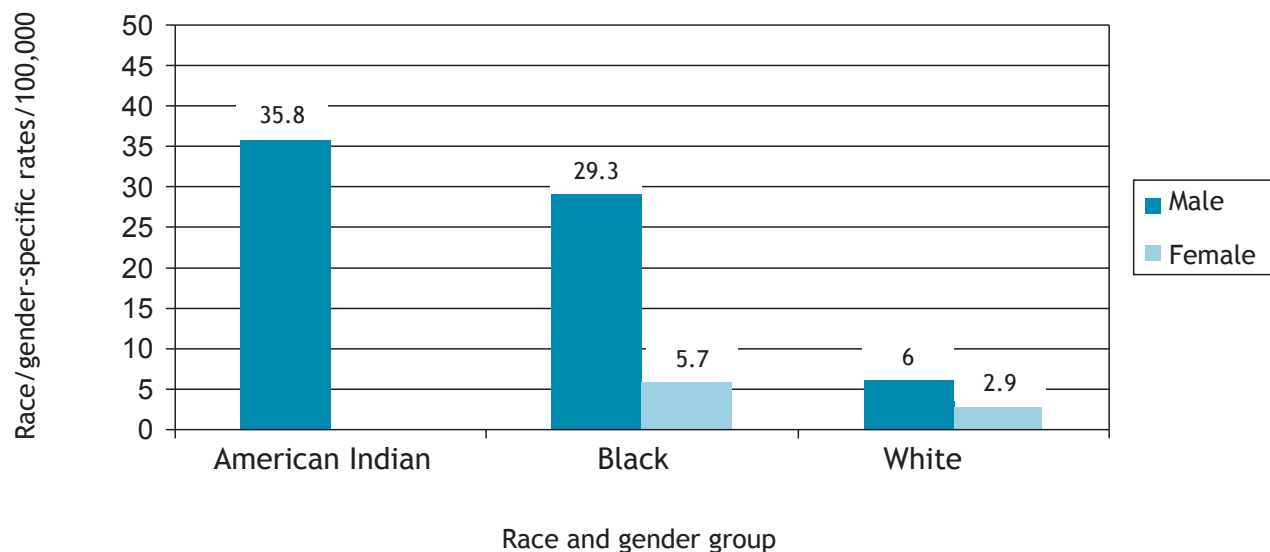


Table 25: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

	Male			Female			Total		
Race	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate
Asian	8	1.6	9.6	1	0.6	*	9	1.4	5.3
Black	264	54.0	29.3	58	36.9	5.7	322	49.8	29.3
American Indian	20	4.1	35.8	4	2.6	*	24	3.7	35.8
Other	3	0.6	*	0	0	0	3	0.5	*
White	194	39.7	6.0	94	59.9	2.9	288	44.6	6.0
Total	489	100		157	100		646	100	

Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

The numbers of victims for many of the female age-groups were too small to calculate reliable rates. There is a dramatic peak in the rate of homicides for males between 20 and 24 years of age.

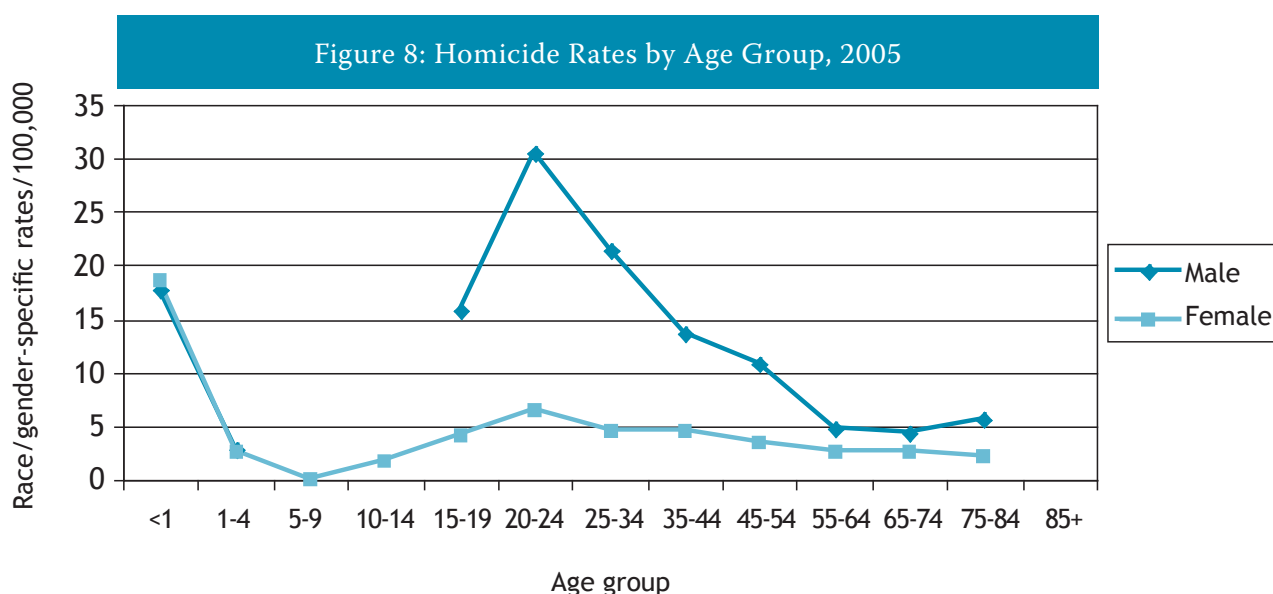


Table 26: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2005

Age Group	Male			Female			Total	
	#	%	Rate	#	%	Rate	#	%
< 1	11	2.2	17.8	11	7	18.5	22	3.4
1-4	7	1.4	2.8	6	3.8	2.6	13	2.0
5-9	2	0.4	*	0	0	0	2	0.3
10-14	3	0.6	*	5	3.2	1.8	8	1.2
15-19	48	9.8	15.8	12	7.6	4.2	60	9.3
20-24	93	19.0	30.4	18	11.5	6.4	111	17.2
25-34	131	26.8	21.4	27	17.2	4.5	158	24.5
35-44	89	18.2	13.7	30	19.1	4.6	119	18.4
45-54	64	13.1	10.7	22	14.0	3.5	86	13.3
55-64	21	4.3	4.7	12	7.6	2.5	33	5.1
65-74	11	2.2	4.4	8	5.1	2.6	19	2.9
75-84	8	1.6	5.6	5	3.2	2.2	13	2.0
85+	1	0.2	*	1	0.6	*	2	0.3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	489			157			646	

Characteristics of Homicides in N.C., 2005

Table 27: Characteristics of Homicides in N.C., 2005

		Number	%
Event Characteristics			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	244	47.4
	Precipitated by another serious crime	138	27.9
	Intimate Partner Violence Related	106	20.6
	Drug involvement	68	13.2
	Argument over money or property	23	4.5
	Jealousy	19	3.7
	Gang related	16	3.1
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	41	8.0
	Justifiable self defense	8	1.6
	Bystander	6	1.2
	Victim was a police officer on duty	1	0.2

Note that more than one characteristic may be noted for each homicide victim. Characteristics/ circumstances were not recorded for every victim.

Legal Intervention Deaths

Four of the 17 legal intervention deaths were executions. (See Table 28) These deaths are not included in the NVDRS, but are included in the NC-VDRS.

Table 28: Demographics of Legal Intervention Deaths in N.C., 2005

		Number	%
Gender			
	Male	17	100
	Female	0	0
Race/Ethnicity			
	White	9	52.9
	Black	7	41.2
	American Indian	1	5.9
	Hispanic	0	0
Age Group			
	15-19	1	5.9
	20-24	1	5.9
	25-34	7	41.2
	35-44	3	17.6
	45-54	1	5.9
	55-64	2	11.8
	65-74	2	11.8
Years of Education Completed			
	< 9	1	5.9
	9-11	5	29.4
	12	7	41.2
	> 12	4	23.5
Marital Status (where age > 15)			
	Married	5	29.4
	Never Married	8	47.1
	Separated/Divorced	2	11.8
	Widowed	2	11.8
Total		17	

Section IV: Unintentional Firearm Death

Highlighted Findings

- Unintentional firearm deaths were more prevalent in males than in females.
- Most deaths occurred while hunting, with the second largest percentage occurring while playing with a gun.
- Most victims were adults (> 18 years of age) followed by children aged 5-9 or teens aged 15-19.

Table 29: Gender, Race, Hispanic and Age Group of Unintentional Firearm Injury Death Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%	Rate	CI for Rate
Gender					
	Male	21	95.4	0.5	0.3-0.7
	Female	1	4.6	*	*
Race					
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	4	18.2	*	*
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Other	0	0	*	*
	Pacific Islander	0	0	*	*
	White	18	81.8	0.3	0.2-0.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	1	4.6	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	21	95.4	0.3	0.2-0.4
	Unknown	0	0	*	*
Age Group					
	< 1	0	0	*	*
	1-4	1	4.6	*	*
	5-9	3	13.6	*	*
	10-14	2	9.1	*	*
	15-19	3	13.6	*	*
	20-24	1	4.6	*	*
	25-34	5	22.7	0.4	0.0-0.8
	35-44	1	4.6	*	*
	45-54	4	18.2	*	*
	55-64	1	4.6	*	*
	65-74	1	4.6	*	*
	75-84	0	0	*	*
	85 +	0	0	*	*
Total		22			

Characteristics of Unintentional Firearm Deaths

Table 30: Characteristics of Unintentional Firearm Deaths in N.C., 2005

Context	Number	%
Hunting	8	36.4
Playing with gun	6	27.3
Showing gun	3	13.6
Target shooting	1	4.5
Celebratory shooting	1	4.5
Cleaning gun	1	4.5
Other	2	9.1

Note that more than one characteristic may be noted for each unintentional firearm death.

Section V: Child Death

For the purpose of this report, a child is defined as a person who is less than 18 years of age. There were 115 children who died a violent death in North Carolina in 2005.

Highlighted Findings

- The rate of child violent death was higher for males than for females.
- The rate of violent death for black children was almost two times the rate of death for white children.
- Infants had the highest rate of violent death in children, with 15 to 17-year-olds representing the second-highest age group.
- Homicides accounted for most of the violent child deaths, and firearms were the dominant method.

Table 31: Gender, Race, Hispanic and Age Group of Child Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%	Rate	CI for Rate
Gender					
	Male	74	64.4	6.8	5.3-8.3
	Female	41	35.6	4.0	2.8-5.2
Race					
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3	2.6	*	*
	Black	46	40	8.2	5.8-10.6
	American Indian	1	0.9	*	*
	White	65	56.5	4.4	3.3-5.5
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	10	8.7	5.1	1.9-8.3
	Non-Hispanic	105	91.3	5.5	4.4-6.6
Age Group					
	<1	22	19.1	18.1	10.5-25.7
	1-4	15	13.0	3.1	1.5-4.7
	5-9	6	5.2	1.1	0.2-2.0
	10-14	17	14.8	2.9	1.5-4.3
	15-17	55	47.8	15.4	11.3-19.6

Table 32: Manner and Method of Child Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2005

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	28	24.4
	Homicide	77	67.0
	Unintentional firearm	7	6.1
	Undetermined	3	2.6
Method			
	Firearm	61	53.5
	Sharp instrument	5	4.4
	Blunt instrument	5	4.4
	Poisoning	1	0.9
	Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	14	12.3
	Unarmed assault	12	10.5
	Fall	0	0
	Drowning	2	1.8
	Fire/burns	2	1.8
	Violent shaking	6	5.3
	Motor vehicle	0	0
	Other transport vehicle	0	0
	Intentional neglect	4	3.5
	More than one method	1	0.9
	Unknown	2	1.8
Total		115	

Table 33: Violent Death Type by Race for Child Victims in N.C., 2005

	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Undetermined	Total
Race					
Asian	0	2	0	0	2
Black	7	38	1	0	46
American Indian	0	1	0	0	1
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	1
White	21	36	6	2	65
Total	28	77	7	3	115

Table 34: Violent Death Intent/Type by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2005

Intent/Type	Age Group					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Suicide	0	0	0	7	21	28
Homicide	22	13	2	8	32	77
Unintentional Firearm	0	1	3	2	1	7
Undetermined	0	1	1	0	1	3
Total	22	15	6	17	55	115

Table 35: Method of Fatal Injury by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2005

Method	Age Group					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Firearm	1	2	5	13	40	61
Sharp instrument	0	0	0	1	4	5
Blunt instrument	2	2	0	0	1	5
Hanging, Strangulation, or Asphyxiation	2	1	0	3	8	14
Unarmed assault	7	5	0	0	0	12
Drowning	0	2	0	0	0	2
Violent shaking	5	1	0	0	0	6
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fire or Burn	0	2	0	0	0	2
Intentional neglect	3	0	1	0	0	4
More than one method	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	22	15	6	17	55	115

Data on counties represent county of injury, not county of death. Rates are per 100,000 persons.

Appendix A: Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Type by County: 2005
ALAMANCE-CLAY

County	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total		
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate	CI for Rate
Missing	1	4	0	0	0	5	Unk	Unk
Alamance	18	8	0	0	0	26	18.5	11.4-25.7
Alexander	5	2	0	0	0	7	19.5	5.1-34.0
Alleghany	1	1	1	0	0	3	*	*
Ashe	6	1	0	0	1	8	31.6	9.7-53.5
Avery	4	2	0	0	0	6	33.9	6.8-61.0
Beaufort	3	2	0	0	0	5	10.9	1.3-20.5
Bertie	1	0	0	0	0	1	*	*
Bladen	1	1	1	0	0	3	*	*
Brunswick	14	7	0	0	0	21	23.6	13.5-23.6
Buncombe	26	14	0	1	2	43	19.7	13.8-25.6
Burke	18	8	1	0	0	27	30.2	18.8-41.6
Cabarrus	20	6	0	0	1	27	18.0	11.2-24.9
Caldwell	21	3	0	0	0	24	30.2	18.1-42.4
Camden	1	0	0	0	0	1	*	*
Carteret	16	3	0	0	1	20	31.8	17.9-45.8
Caswell	1	2	1	0	0	4	*	*
Catawba	15	7	1	0	0	23	15.2	9.0-21.4
Chatham	7	5	0	0	0	12	20.6	9.0-32.3
Cherokee	5	0	0	0	0	5	19.4	2.4-36.5
Chowan	3	1	0	0	0	4	*	*
Clay	2	0	0	0	0	2	*	*

Appendix A: Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Type by County: 2005, continued
CLEVELAND-HENDERSON

County	Suicide Number	Homicide Number	Unintentional Firearm Number	Legal Intervention Number	Undetermined Number	Total		
						Number	Rate	CI for Rate
Cleveland	13	7	1	0	0	21	21.4	12.3-30.6
Columbus	8	12	0	0	0	20	36.8	20.7-52.9
Craven	14	3	0	0	1	18	19.2	10.3-28.0
Cumberland	26	24	1	1	0	52	17.4	12.7-22.1
Currituck	3	0	0	0	0	3	*	*
Dare	4	1	0	0	0	5	14.8	1.8-27.8
Davidson	20	2	1	0	1	24	15.5	9.3-21.7
Davie	5	1	0	0	0	6	15.4	3.1-27.7
Duplin	9	6	1	0	0	16	30.9	15.7-46.0
Durham	21	38	1	1	0	61	25.2	18.9-31.5
Edgecombe	7	6	0	1	1	15	27.8	13.7-41.8
Forsyth	35	19	1	1	6	62	19.0	14.3-23.8
Franklin	5	3	0	0	0	8	14.6	4.5-24.8
Gaston	30	13	2	1	4	50	25.5	18.4-32.5
Gates	2	2	0	0	0	4	*	*
Graham	3	1	0	0	0	4	*	*
Granville	8	3	0	0	0	11	20.6	8.4-32.8
Greene	3	0	0	0	0	3	*	*
Guilford	41	40	0	0	3	84	18.9	14.9-23.0
Halifax	6	6	0	0	0	12	21.6	9.4-33.8
Harnett	9	6	0	0	1	16	15.4	7.9-23.0
Haywood	9	2	0	0	0	11	19.6	8.0-31.2
Henderson	13	5	1	0	2	21	21.6	12.4-30.9

Appendix A: Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Type by County: 2005, continued
HERTFORD-ORANGE

County	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined		Total		
	Number		Number		Number		Number		Number		Number	Rate	CI for Rate
Hertford	1		1		0		0		0		2	*	*
Hoke	3		3		0		1		0		7	17.2	4.5-30.0
Hyde	0		1		0		0		0		1	*	*
Iredell	16		11		0		0		1		28	19.9	12.6-27.3
Jackson	7		1		0		1		0		9	25.6	8.9-42.2
Johnston	22		6		0		0		0		28	19.1	12.0-26.2
Jones	1		1		0		0		0		2	*	*
Lee	7		11		0		0		0		18	32.3	17.4-47.2
Lenoir	5		8		0		0		0		13	22.5	10.3-34.7
Lincoln	8		4		0		0		0		12	17.2	7.5-26.9
McDowell	5		2		0		0		0		7	16.2	4.2-28.2
Macon	8		0		0		0		0		8	25.0	7.7-42.4
Madison	5		1		1		0		0		7	34.6	9.0-60.3
Martin	2		4		1		0		0		7	28.6	7.4-49.8
Mecklenburg	53		84		0		1		1		139	17.4	14.6-20.4
Mitchell	3		0		0		0		0		3	*	*
Montgomery	6		2		1		0		0		9	32.9	11.4-54.4
Moore	10		3		0		0		0		13	16.0	7.3-24.7
Nash	9		11		0		0		0		20	21.9	12.3-31.5
New Hanover	22		12		0		1		1		36	20.1	13.5-26.7
Northhampton	3		2		0		0		0		5	23.4	2.9-43.8
Onslow	17		3		0		0		1		21	14.0	8.0-19.9
Orange	17		8		0		0		2		27	22.8	14.2-31.4

Appendix A: Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Type by County: 2005, continued
PITT-WILSON

County	Suicide Number	Homicide Number	Unintentional Firearm Number	Legal Intervention Number	Undetermined Number	Total		
						Number	Rate	CI for Rate
Pitt	17	12	0	0	0	29	20.4	13.0-27.8
Polk	3	2	0	0	0	5	26.2	3.2-49.2
Randolph	16	10	1	1	1	29	21.0	13.3-28.6
Richmond	3	7	0	0	2	12	25.7	11.2-40.2
Robeson	14	32	0	0	1	47	36.8	26.3-47.3
Rockingham	14	5	1	0	0	20	21.6	12.1-31.1
Rowan	22	7	0	0	1	30	22.2	14.3-30.2
Rutherford	15	8	0	0	0	23	36.1	21.4-50.9
Sampson	2	7	0	0	0	9	14.3	5.0-23.7
Scotland	4	6	0	0	0	10	27.0	10.3-43.7
Stanly	14	4	0	0	0	18	30.5	16.4-44.6
Stokes	8	4	1	1	1	15	32.8	16.2-49.3
Surry	18	2	1	0	1	22	30.4	17.7-43.1
Swain	2	4	0	0	0	6	45.3	9.0-81.5
Transylvania	9	0	0	0	0	9	30.4	10.5-50.2
Union	11	7	0	0	0	18	11.0	5.9-16.1
Vance	5	4	1	0	0	10	23.0	8.7-37.2
Wake	54	26	0	5	1	86	11.4	9.0-13.9
Warren	2	3	0	0	0	5	25.3	3.1-47.5
Watauga	5	1	0	0	1	7	16.5	4.3-28.7
Wayne	15	12	0	0	0	27	23.7	14.8-32.7
Wilkes	11	1	0	0	0	12	17.9	7.8-28.0
Wilson	4	15	0	0	0	19	25.0	13.7-36.2

Appendix A: Number, Percent, and Rate of Violent Death Type by County: 2005, continued
YADKIN-YANCEY

County	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total		
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate	CI for Rate
Yadkin	6	2	0	0	0	8	21.2	6.5-35.9
Yancey	2	1	0	0	2	5	27.5	3.4-51.6
Total	1,007	646	22	17	44	1,736		

Appendix B: Advisory Boards

The list of advisory board members below represents the membership and their positions as of Jan 1, 2006.

Data Sharing Committee

Catherine (Kay) Sanford, Director, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS
 Stephen Marshall, Co-Director, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS
 Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS

Data Users Advisory Board

Chair: Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, UNC; Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, UNC-Chapel Hill

Board Facilitator: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, NC-VDRS

Steve Chalmers, Chief of Police, Durham Police Department
 Megan Davies, Medical Epidemiologist, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
 Jeanne Givens, Head, Applications and Program Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS
 Peggy Goodman, Associate Professor, The Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C.
 The Honorable Michael A Gorman, N.C. House of Representatives
 Jane Miller, Program Consultant, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS
 Lisa Price, Executive Director, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence Education Fund, Inc.
 Joel Rosch, Senior Research Scholar, Child and Health Policy Initiative, Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University
 Kristen Rosselli, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Raleigh Police Department
 Leslie Staroneck, Consultant on Domestic Violence and Child Well-Being, Prevent Child Abuse N.C.
 Delores Steele, N.C. Council for Women and Domestic Violence Commission
 Jennifer Tolle-Whiteside, Co-Chair of the Child Fatality Task Force, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse N.C.
 David C Wiesner, Licensed Psychologist, Raleigh, N.C.
 Betty Wiser, Director of Older Adult Health Branch, N.C. DHHS

Durham Community Advisory Board

Co-Chairs:

Phillip J Cook, Terry Sanford Professor of Public Policy, Duke University

Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, UNC; Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, UNC-Chapel Hill

Board Facilitator: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, NC-VDRS

John Byrd, Lieutenant, Project Safe Neighborhood, Durham Police Department

Robert Faggart, Coordinator, Project Safe Neighborhood, Durham Police Department

Phillip Graham, Public Health Researcher, RTI International

Brian Letourneau, Director, Durham County Health Department

Steven Mihaich, Capt. Commander Special Operations, Project Safe Neighborhood, Durham Police Department

Beth Morocco, Research Scientist, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Marcia Owen, Community Volunteer, Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham

Rebecca Reyes, Latino Health Project Coordinator, Duke University

Mike Smith, Durham County Emergency Medical Services

Kevin Strom, Public Health Researcher, RTI International

Technical Advisory Board

Chair: Anna E Waller, Associate Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Health Behavior/Health Education, UNC-Chapel Hill

Board Facilitators:

Catherine (Kay) Sanford, Director, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS

Stephen Marshall, Co-Director, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. DHHS

Patricia Barnes, N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Amy Ising, Department of Emergency Medicine, UNC-Chapel Hill

Kathleen Jones-Vessey, State Center for Health Statistics

Timothy Parker, State Bureau of Investigation

Appendix C: Methodology

NC-VDRS data are collected from a number of sources. Reports from these sources are reviewed, abstracted, and entered in to the VDRS data collection system by NC-VDRS Data Abstractors. The North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics and the State Division of Vital Statistics provide electronic death certificate data. Electronic data from the Medical Examiner Information System (MEIS) is received from the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Narrative information from the medical examiner reports, as well as additional information from the death certificates, are manually abstracted by NC-VDRS staff from paper records. Law enforcement data are obtained from 220 law enforcement agencies.

Primacy rules are used to ensure that the NC-VDRS used the proper sources of information for various variables when analyzing data. The value of any one field may be different across the multiple data sources, so these primacy rules were developed to rank the sources by likely accuracy for each datapoint.

Quality control of data collection and abstraction is important to maintaining the quality of the data in the NC-VDRS. Quality control measures include, but are not limited to the following:

- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to determine whether cases meet NVDRS eligibility criteria.
- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to identify inconsistent manner-of-death or ICD-10 codes.
- Data completeness, especially manner of death
- Data entry errors, including comparison against electronic death certificate data
- Coding errors
- Narrative completeness

Rates are calculated using bridged population data (vintage 2006) from the National Center for Health Statistics, downloaded on 20 Jul 2007. The website for obtaining these data is: www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/datadoc.htm. The file name is pcen_v2006.zip (bridged race 2006 post-censal estimates of resident population).

Population Data on which Rate Calculations are Based			
		Number	Number of children (age < 18)
Gender			
	Male	4,249,390	1,083,332
	Female	4,423,069	1,029,245
Race			
	Asian	170,124	46,539
	Black	1,915,136	560,447
	American Indian	112,853	31,886
	Other	0	0
	Pacific Islander	Included in Asian	Included in Asian
	White	6,474,346	1,473,705
Hispanic			
	Hispanic	552,318	197,345
	Non-Hispanic	8,120,141	1,915,232
	Unknown		
Age Group			
	< 1	121,584	121,584
	1-4	479,281	479,281
	5-9	565,385	565,385
	10-14	589,225	589,225
	15-19	591,864	357,102 (age 15-17)
	20-24	587,388	n/a
	25-34	1,215,149	n/a
	35-44	1,308,509	n/a
	45-54	1,230,378	n/a
	55-64	928,681	n/a
	65-74	560,942	n/a
	75-84	364,243	n/a
	85 +	129,650	n/a
Total		8,672,459	2,112,577

Appendix D: Publications about NC-VDRS

Sanford K, Marshall SW, Norwood T. (2005) North Carolina Deaths from Violence in 2004. *North Carolina Medical Journal*: 66(5): 403-404.

Sanford C, Marshall SW, Martin SL, Coyne-Beasley T, Waller AE, Cook PJ, Norwood T, Demissie Z. (2006) Deaths from violence in North Carolina, 2004: how deaths differ in females and males. *Injury Prevention*: Dec;12 (Suppl 2):ii10-ii16.

Division of Public Health

VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT 2005
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